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THE Baptist Record

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No. 35

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

GOP affirms pro-life, traditional marriage platform

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Republican National Convention delegates meeting in Tampa last week adopted a platform that takes traditional stances on several issues, including assertions that the unborn child has a "fundamental individu-

al right to life" and marriage between a man and a woman is "the foundation of civil society."

Passed Aug. 27, the 50-page document touches on a host of social issues including abortion, marriage, religious liberty,

stem cell research, gambling, pornography, and the environment.

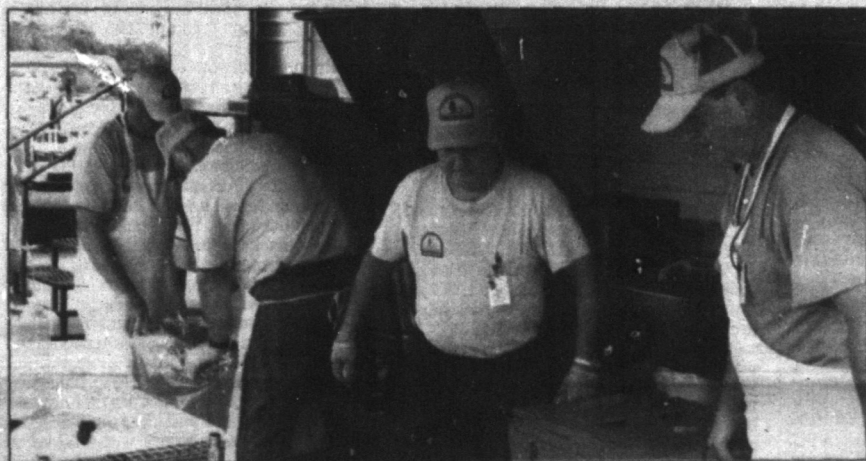
On abortion, the platform remains pro-life, as it has in every presidential election since 1976.

"Faithful to the 'self-evident' truths

enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life

see GOP on p. 7

HURRICANE ISAAC AFTERMATH



BAPTIST VOLUNTEERS — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force prepare meals in the parking lot of First Church, Long Beach, over the Labor Day weekend in response to Hurricane Isaac's displacement of Gulf Coast residents and the storm's disruption of services. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Baptists quick to respond

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

First Church in Long Beach is no stranger to the devastating storms that roar ashore from the Gulf of Mexico. Many people along the coast still remember the iconic sight of the church's battered rooftop cross, standing like a sentry, over the ruins of the church's buildings after Hurricane Katrina struck seven years ago.

The church relocated farther inland from the coastline and rebuilt its facilities, and according to pastor LaRue Stephens, the new physical plant was built keeping in mind the church's ministry in a storm.

Portions of the new church building are reinforced with concrete, and windows in the reinforced areas are extra thick and shatter-resistant. The church can house volunteers and supply its own power for extended periods of time during

storm-related outages.

The planning was finally put to the test during the assault by Hurricane Isaac, which made its initial landfall on August 28. The Category 1 storm caused extensive flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force began setting up its feeding units within a couple of days.

First Church, Long Beach, was chosen to be one of the two initial staging areas after Isaac moved through. The other staging area was First Church, Pascagoula.

First Church, Long Beach, was prepared. "We have a storm preparation ministry," said Stephens. "We help anyone in the city. All of the widows in our church have a deacon assigned to them. The deacons contact their widows and they in turn report back to us. They tell us if they're evacuating; what needs they may have at their houses; if they need windows boarded or their yards picked up."

"We develop a master list and

at the same time recruit volunteers from within the congregation who might help us. Generally, that means yard pickup, sandbagging, and boarding windows. We target our widows and single parents first, then others as needed. We help until the wind and the rain make it too dangerous. Then we 'bunker down'."

"One of the priorities we factored into the rebuild here was disaster relief. We wanted to be positioned to host the volunteers and accommodate disaster relief ministry teams, so we have our own generator for power so we can operate regardless of what's happening in the community."

"Once we go under a watch, we start identifying the needs, and by the time a warning is announced, our ministry teams are in the field. When the weather is calm enough for us to get out, our Sunday School teachers start contacting their members to see if they need help."

see ISAAC on p. 6

Report: Hostility toward religion at all-time high

WASHINGTON (BP) — Hostility toward religious expression has reached an all-time high in the United States, according to The Survey of Religious Hostility in America, a 140-page report released Aug. 17 by Liberty Institute (LI) in Plano, Texas, and Family Research Council (FRC) in Washington, D.C.

The report, which is an update of a 2004 survey by LI, documents more than 600 instances of hostility toward religion — hostility it says is dramatically growing in both frequency and type. Most have taken place in the last 10 years. Religious liberty advocates have prevailed in legal challenges in some of the incidents, not in others.

"America today would be unrecognizable to our Founders," said Kelly Shackelford, LI president, and Tony Perkins, FRC president, in the introduction to the survey. "Our first freedom is facing a relentless onslaught from well-funded and aggressive groups and individuals who are using the courts, Congress, and the vast federal bureaucracy to suppress and limit religious freedom."

"This radicalized minority is driven by an anti-religious ideology that is turning the First Amendment upside down."

Tony Perkins is not related to William Perkins, editor of The Baptist Record.

Shackelford and Tony Perkins pointed to the Obama administration's common use of the term "freedom of worship" instead of "freedom of religion" as part of the problem.

"This radical departure is one that threatens to make true reli-

gious liberty vulnerable, conditional, and limited. As some have said, it is a freedom 'only with four walls.' That is, you are free to worship within the four walls of your home, church, or synagogue, but when you enter the public square the message is, 'leave your religion at home.'"

The



see REPORT on p. 6

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Mississippi Baptists to the rescue

Isaac may have been no match for Katrina, but the minimal hurricane that swept the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama coasts on August 28 didn't seem so "minimal" to Gulf Coast residents. The storm, whatever size, served as a potent reminder of the importance of being constantly vigilant where our Baptist disaster relief ministries are concerned.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force was quick to dispatch the fully self-contained eighteen-wheeler that can serve many thousands of meals every day to disaster victims. The place where the feeding unit was headquartered was First Church, Long Beach, the members of which relocated and rebuilt their church to storm-resistant standards after Hurricane Katrina flattened it seven years ago. Drawing on their own experiences after Katrina, they wanted ministry needs to be met after future storms.

Another self-contained feeding unit, this one staffed and maintained by Briar Hill Church in Florence, was dispatched to First Church, Pascagoula, to render ministry to the eastern section of the storm area.

Both feeding units have now returned from the Coast, but several Baptist mud-out and chainsaw teams are still working there.

Mississippi Baptists are heavily invested in disaster relief ministries, so much so that those ministries are a formal part of the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Mississippi Baptists see disaster relief as an important ministry and support it with both their volunteer efforts, their dollars, and their prayers.

Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, is viewed across the Southern Baptist Convention as the virtual dean of disaster relief. Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department, is also heavily involved in disaster relief and, like Didlake, has travelled the world representing Mississippi Baptists and Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts.

Carol Wright and Deanna Vail serve as ministry assistants in the

Men's Ministry Department, and provide a crucial Baptist Building anchor for the disaster relief teams when they are in the field. The importance of their roles cannot be underestimated.

When the call comes — and it will, over and over again — Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers are there to get the job done. These are Mississippi Baptists who devote their free time and give up their vacation days at work to hone their disaster relief skills.

It's not just a matter of volunteering. Disaster relief ministry can be dangerous work. From chainsaw technique to downed live power lines to water moccasins in flooded kitchen cabinets, Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers are trained to the maximum extent possible to handle whatever contingency arises. They never hesitate to go. They are the backbone of the ministry.

The next time you read in The Baptist Record about the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force being deployed to some area of the state you've probably never heard of, remember all the prayer, sacrifice, training, dedication, and expense that went into that activation. Remember that the only reward they expect is that our Lord and Savior be glorified and people come to know Him through their efforts.

That's pure Christianity at work.

Editor's note: The Disaster Relief Task Force of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is now accepting donations for hurricane relief as the 2012 hurricane season picks up speed. Tax-deductible donations should be mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line. Donations can also be made online from this page.

For more information, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at cwright@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. For disaster relief updates, visit www.mbcb.org.

Never too early for Scripture

One of our goals for our children is that they grow up with a love for God's Word, the Bible. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Since I want my children to grow up to be men and women of God who are complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work, they need to learn to receive their guidance for living and serving from the Bible. (Let me say here that I am not discounting the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives and decisions, only that right now I am focusing on the Bible.)

David expresses in Psalm 19 his love for and need of God's Word, and he only had the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. How blessed we are to live in a time and place when we can easily obtain the entire 66 books of the Bible in our own language!

We can do no less than share it with our children, teaching them by our examples and our words to learn it, to love it and to depend on it for direction as they grow and become responsible for their own decisions, no matter what their age. From the womb until the time they are young adults, there are things parents can do to help your child know, and ultimately love, Scripture.

In the womb

Did you know that children can hear and begin to learn before they are born? Secret Life of the Unborn Child by Thomas Verny shows that unborn babies respond to and are soothed by the music of Vivaldi and Mozart, but when Beethoven, Brahms or rock music are played, they become very restless.

By about the sixth month of pregnancy a baby also begins to recognize his parents' voices and speech patterns. What better thing could he begin to learn than the cadences of Scripture, read carefully and thoughtfully to him by his parents?

As an infant

Scripture-reading should continue after the child is born. While he will not understand the words, he can learn to associate the reading of God's Word with being held in a quiet and comforting way. What do we read to an infant? All of the Bible is "profitable," but you might focus on Psalms and Proverbs,



Guest opinion
with Elizabeth Owen

which have a rhythm and a pattern to them.

It is never too soon to begin to read to your children about heroes of the faith. You can also begin to read verses and passages that you will lead them to memorize first when they can begin to speak, such as John 3:16, Ephesians 6:1, Proverbs 21:11, Romans 3:23 and 6:23, verses from the Psalms, and the Lord's Prayer.

As a toddler

As your child grows and becomes mobile, you will discover that it is hard to keep him in one place for a long reading. That is alright. Reading does not have to be long; it just has to be regular. Let your child know that you are reading from a very special book — the best Book in the world — the Bible. It is a letter from God to us. Then pick a two- or three-verse passage to read to him in a happy, dramatic way, and identify three or four words or direct quotes from that passage that you can repeat to/with him to emphasize what you have read. You should continue reading verses and passages that you will want him to memorize.

As a pre-schooler

Pre-schoolers love stories, and by the time they are around two years old you should be reading them the stories in the Bible. Will they understand every word? No. That is why God gave them parents. You are there to explain the hard words and ideas on their level. Read to them slowly, clearly, with a voice that rises and falls with the crises in the story.

Be dramatic! It will hold their attention and help them to remember the details. Don't be afraid to read what you might consider to be more difficult passages to your children. We have found that God was able to use those in our children's lives for growth,

see OWEN on p. 6

THE Baptist Record

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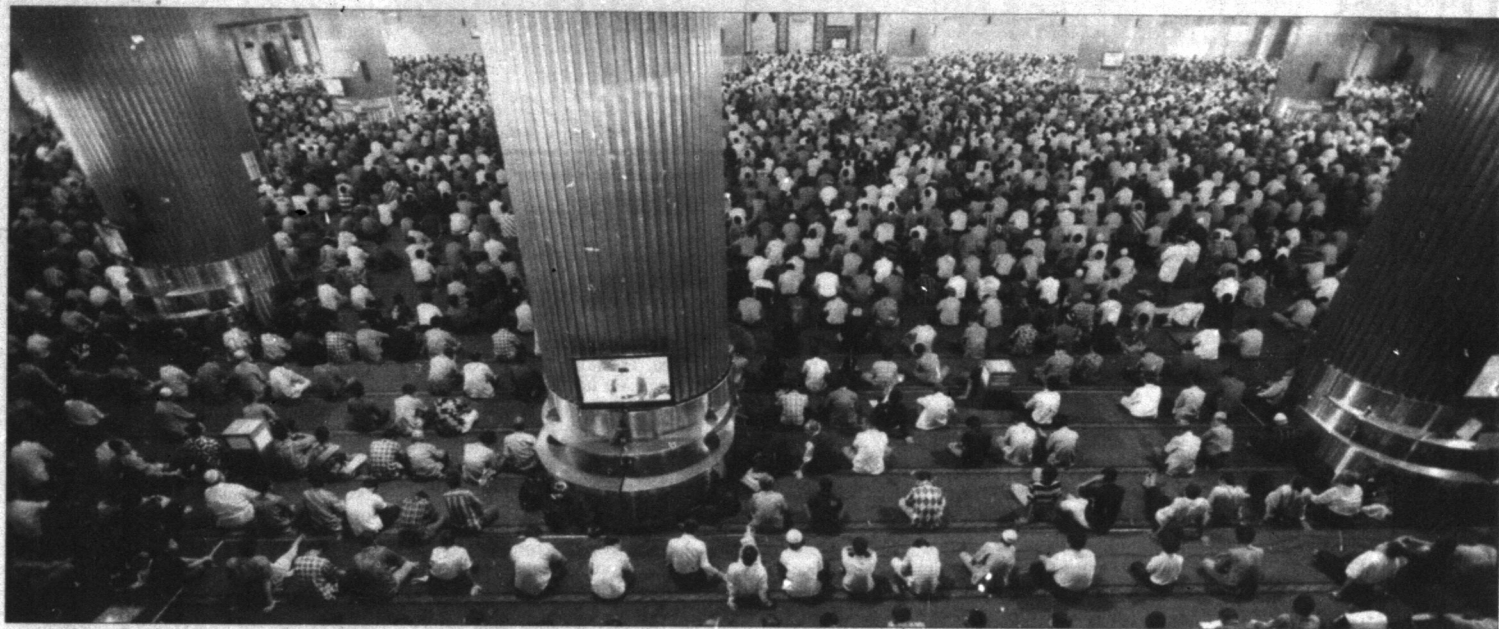
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IN NEED OF GOSPEL — Muslims pray amid the vast columns of Jakarta's Masjid Istiqlal, the largest mosque in Southeast Asia. More than 2,600 mosques and 5,800 Muslim prayer centers saturate the Indonesian capital, along with numerous Buddhist and Hindu temples and hundreds of Catholic and Protestant churches. However, the city has yet to be evangelized. (BP photo)

Study: Most Muslims not interested in theocracies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Westerners tend to assume most Muslims are strongly committed to the Quran and to establishing Islamic republics, but that isn't accurate, Mike Edens, a professor of theology and Islamic studies at New Orleans Seminary, told Baptist Press concerning a Pew Research Center study of more than 38,000 Muslims in 39 countries.

"About 20% of any Muslim population is actually committed to Islam having the leading role in their society," said Edens, who served 26 years in the Middle East with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Most Muslims are committed to what we would call a secular Islamic worldview or a 'value' Islamic worldview," Edens said, describing "value Muslims" as those for whom the values of Islam for family; protection of the young; security for women; and living a conservative, moral life are much more important than establishing an Islamic theocracy akin to Iran's.

According to the Pew study, the world's 1.6 billion Muslims are united in their belief in Allah and the Prophet Muhammad and practice widely such religious requirements as fasting during the holy month of Ramadan and almsgiving to the poor, but they vary on how important religion is to their lives.

The study, *The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity*, was conducted by Pew's Forum on Religion and Public Life, a project of the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. The Forum's web site describes the organization as promoting "a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs."

According to the web site, "The Pew Forum conducts surveys, demographic analyses and other social science research on important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings."

The study was conducted in more than

80 languages spoken by about two-thirds of the world's Muslim population. The United States was not included. Among the results:

■ 97% of Muslims in the study declared faith in Allah and the Prophet Muhammad; 93% reported fasting during the month of Ramadan; 77% gave to charity; 63% said they pray five times a day; nine percent had made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

■ The percentage of Muslims who had made the pilgrimage to Mecca declined with distance from Mecca and was no higher than 48% in any country surveyed, Pew found.

■ Traditional Islamic teachings such as belief in one God, belief in fate, belief in angels, and belief that the Quran is the literal word of God are widely accepted across the countries included in the study.

■ Half or more of Muslims in 32 of 39 countries said there is only one true interpretation of Islam, Pew reported.

■ In the 39 countries surveyed, the percentage saying religion is very important to them ranged from 15% in Albania to 98% in Senegal.

Edens told BP, "Because Islam is defined by exterior behavior, it's not defined by belief structure so much as it is defined by what you do in your daily life: You go to the mosque on Friday at noon to pray, you stop in your business day and pray five times during the day, you fast during the daylight hours of the month of Ramadan, you give 2.5% of your income to advance Islam and to help the poor, you have sometime in your life taken the opportunity to go to Mecca on

the pilgrimage."

Muslims want to be seen by those around them as devoted to Islamic values, he said, not necessarily as more extreme than fellow Muslims. They are careful to appear upright, respectful, and honor-bearing.

"Islamic society is not based on innocence and guilt. It's based on honor and shame," Edens explained. "Having the Islamic behavior pattern is one way that honor is seen in your family."

As Christians share Christ with people

who are strongly committed to living an honorable life in Islam, they need to point to Scriptures and to realities in the Gospel that are not just guilt/innocence-based but also honor/shame-based, Edens said.

"For instance, Jesus said, 'If you confess me before men, I will confess you before my Father and his holy angels. If you are ashamed of me before men, I will be ashamed of you before Him.' That's

an honor/shame type of differentiation. "We don't usually think of the Gospel that way, but when we incorporate some of those things in our witness, it helps people understand," said Edens, who also serves as the seminary's associate director of the Institute for Christian Apologetics and associate dean of graduate studies.

Peer influence plays a large role among Muslims, prompting them to observe as many of the five pillars of Islam as they can manage externally, Edens said.

"I remember a Muslim telling me that he was disturbed that he was going to have to fast through the month of Ramadan, which fell across Christmas and New Year's. I said, 'Why is that?' and he said, 'Well, I usually go dancing and drink alcohol on New Year's Eve.' I was struck by the fact that his life did not always conform to Islam but he

wanted to be seen as conforming to the fast of Ramadan," Edens said.

"When behavior is compact, like 28 days, it's easier for that to be observed and compared than some of the other behavior patterns. Praying five times a day, for instance, you're doing that in private."

Nothing in the Pew study, which was released Aug. 9, necessarily surprised him, Edens said, adding that it may alarm American Christians that the task of sharing Christ with all peoples is a large task, "and it takes all of us."

"The Gospel wins in the world market of ideas, but God needs His people to be His witnesses. Jesus commissioned us to be His witnesses, and we need to be faithful to that commitment," Edens said.

One way for the Pew study to impact Christians' efforts among Muslims, Edens said, is that it can "encourage us all to pray for God to give insight in the hearts of individual Muslims to the truth of the Gospel and the power of the cross of Jesus Christ to transform lives."

"God is the only one who can do that. We cannot succeed in converting people. We are only witnesses. We need to be praying. We need to join God in His efforts of making Christ known among all people. This study can encourage us in our prayer lives," Edens said.

The Pew report, he said, also can challenge some people to witness to Muslims who are right at their door.

"There is no one who is going to read this article who is going to live very far from a Muslim. In fact, many of them are going to have a mosque somewhere in a neighborhood near them, so it's no longer that you have to be called of God to go across the world to have a cross-cultural experience of sharing the Gospel with Muslims," Edens said.

"All you have to do is be obedient to the Spirit and desirous to be a witness and step across the street in many cases. The Muslims are here in our neighborhood, in our community, in our country."

"About 20% of any Muslim population is actually committed to Islam having the leading role in their society."

Mike Edens

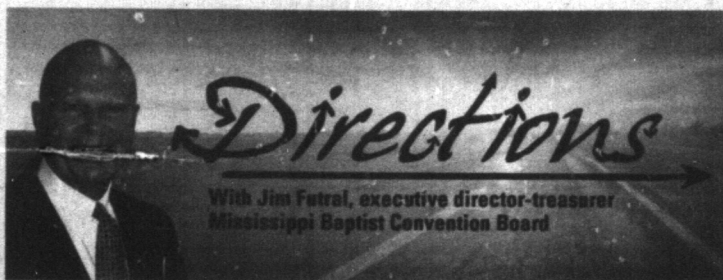
New Orleans Seminary professor of theology and Islamic studies

Right up front let me confess my wrongdoing. I am about to do what I am asking you not to do. It is a quandary yet I feel compelled to do it. Through the years, I have known a small handful of people who generally speaking were people that never complained. They never criticized. They were positive souls that lived their lives without taking potshots at everybody, every decision, and every comment around them.

I suppose if you were to talk with them, they would tell you that they are not near as positive as they may appear and they may even confess that at times, they did complain or they were critical. On some day and some time in some way, all of us may lean toward complaining. It may have to do with family, work, our country, school, or the atmospheric conditions. Sometimes we express our disgust and disagreement with the way things are. It is important for every one of us to realize that there are times, places, and situations in which we ought to express our disagreement or desire that it be different. That is not what I am writing about in this article. Rather what I am addressing is the kind of attitude, the unpleasant and negative kind of spirit that sees everything through negative eyes and with a critical vent.

I am not just complaining about somebody making a complaint. That is fine! But I am complaining about the complainer who never has a celebration and never ceases to complain. It has always been with us and while a full biblical discussion of complaining is not possible in this space, I would point out to you that it has been with us from the very outset of our sinful walk.

You can hear the complaints from Adam and Eve and watch it being lived out in the Garden. While living in paradise they were not content. In fact, the seeds sown in their



Complaining about Complaining

hear's by Satan began to grow in ways that can only be seen as complaints. They began to think that God was holding out on them and so they would just oppose Him and do it their own way. Once that happened the dam seems to have been broken for the entire human race as everywhere you turn you see them griping.

I suppose that from a biblical standpoint the biggest complainers in the Bible have a spotlight placed on them as Moses tries to lead the children of Israel out of bondage into a new land. They seem to gripe every step of the way. So please understand that I am not complaining about people who have a complaint, but I am complaining about those folks who can do nothing but complain. Let me share with you some reasons why this is so bad.

First of all, complaining becomes habitual. If you followed Israel through their Exodus, you would see them complaining about being in Egypt and complaining because God was not intervening soon enough. Then they complained because there were obstacles in their way

and they had no seeable way to get across the Red Sea. Then they began to complain because there was no food on the other side of the sea and God sends manna. In time, they began to complain about the manna. They were tired of eating it and they wanted some meat. God sent them delicious quail and then they began to complain about that.

They complained about Moses and his leadership and then they complained when he was absent from the congregation. I am sure that they did not intend for this to be the case but it seems like every morning when they got up they asked what could I complain about today. Complaining can be such a way of life that it can become not just what you do but who you are. Having had the privilege of being a pastor and serving the Lord's people over decades, I have watched as some folks were in the complaining mode as young people. Then they complained through the young adult years and then as senior adults, they continued the habit. The fact is that they did not just start yesterday.

Secondly, complaining becomes harmful. It may seem rather harmless but that is deceptive. It becomes extremely harmful. Just watch the person who is the habitual complainer and see what happens. In time, complaining proliferates into every area and ultimately will sour and ruin your spirit. Eventually it will become a full grown, undeniable sin that will manifest itself as a rotten attitude in every sector of life. The harm is done to the individual with the soured disposition, but it does not stop there. It will depress others, discourage them, debilitate their efforts, and do widespread damage to the Kingdom of God. It will hurt people, stymie creativity, and can bring death to many of the things that God wants to bring to life.

Finally, complaining will become hereditary. The Old Testament points out that our sinfulness and the consequences of our sin reaches to the third and fourth generations. I fully recognize that the grace of God and the transforming power of the Gospel can make a difference in us. The cycle of sin, complaining, and hurt can be broken. I also know that oftentimes when you see the demon of despair in a family the pattern of actions and words become so instilled in the children that they are not even aware that the critical, complaining spirit has come to reside in them.

None of us is capable or influential enough to change things in another person, but we can start where we are with who we are and say, "Dear God, help me to see your hand at work. Help me to celebrate You doing great things in the midst of my turmoil. Deliver me from being a complaining, sour-spirited person with a rotten attitude. I pray in Jesus name. Amen and Amen!"

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



TUCKER

Tucker, 81, former Miss. pastor, dies in Ky.

John H. Tucker, 81, died Aug. 4 at his home in Moreland, Kentucky. He was born in Vicksburg Sept. 15, 1930. He served four years in the Army, graduated from Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored Swiftwater Church, Greenville; Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale; Mesa Church, Tylertown; Goodhope Church, West Monroe, La.; First Church East Oak,

Humble, Tex.; and Corning Church, Corning, N.Y. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Louise Rives Tucker; four children: John Daniel Tucker, Tuxpan, Mexico; Deanna Higgins, Tulsa, Okla.; Stephen Tucker, Clarksville, Tenn.; and Shari Allegood, Moultrie, Ga.; ten grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was buried in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, Hopkinsville, Ky.

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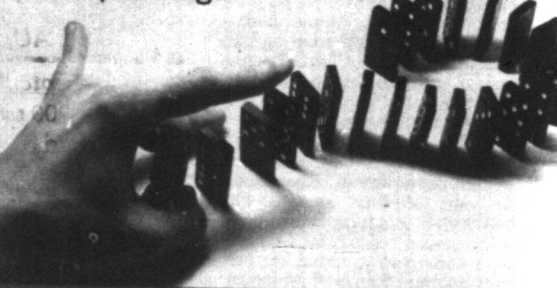
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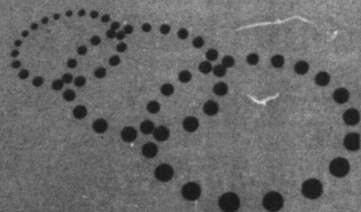
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 6, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Transformational Sunday School

Transformational Sunday School Training

In the following locations there will be conferences for all age groups on: How to Make the Bible Come Alive, and How To Tell the Story of Jesus.

Saturday, September 8: 9 a.m. - noon - New Hope, Gulfport

Thursday, September 13: 6 - 9 p.m. - North Greenwood, Greenwood

We will model actual classroom teaching for a preschool, a children, student, and an adult Sunday School class:

Saturday, September 22: 9 a.m. - noon - Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian

Sponsored by: Sunday School Department, MS Baptist Convention Board,
Contact 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291 locally.



2012 Auditions for the 2013 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th graders involved in the music ministry of Mississippi Southern Baptist Churches

REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE AUDITION

Saturday—September 15, 2012

10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
William Carey University,
Hattiesburg

Sunday—September 16, 2012

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Grace Memorial Baptist
Church, Gulfport

Thursday—September 20, 2012

4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Summit

Thursday—September 27, 2012

4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Fairview Baptist Church,
Columbus

Sunday—September 30, 2012

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
North Oxford Baptist Church,
Oxford

Thursday—October 4, 2012

4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Meridian

Saturday—October 6, 2012

1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Baptist Building, Jackson

Sunday—October 7, 2012

2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Baptist Building, Jackson

Sponsored by the Church Music Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, Miss.
For More Information: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266,
palford@mbcb.org or sluttrell@mbcb.org

For more registration information visit the MBCB Web site:
<http://www.mbcb.org/download/cm/2012%20MBASYCO.pdf>

Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Council Meeting & Banquet

Monday, October 29, 2012

Bivo/Small Church Area Coordinators Meeting,
Baptist Building Sky Room
4th Floor, 1:30 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting,
Baptist Building Sky Room
4th Floor, 3:00 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet,
Baptist Building Sky Room
4th Floor, 5:00 p.m.

Registration is preferred for banquet, so we will have a meal for you.

Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. to make reservations; 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

AMD & Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

7:00-8:00 a.m.

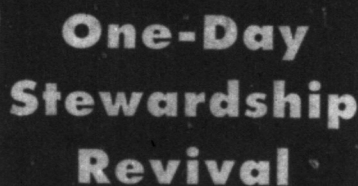
Baptist Building Chapel

In order that we might prepare, please notify Keith Gordon, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, 601-292-3307, or kgordon@mbcb.org if you will attend. Wives are also invited.

unexpected

- Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps
- College Outreach
- Criminal Justice Ministry
- New Church Starts
- Central Hills Campgrounds
- Community Mission Projects
- Camp Garaywa
- Port Ministries
- Cross Cultural Evangelism
- Disaster Relief
- Language/Deaf Ministry
- Mission Volunteers

\$2 MILLION GOAL



For more information contact the Stewardship
Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board, at 601.292.3347.

BNF Retreat 2012: October 5-6 at Garaywa in Clinton

October 6, 2012
Featured guest speaker:
Mary Callahan

**For more information
contact:**

Denise Windom
601-684-3222

denisewindom@bellsouth.net



THROUGH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT JOY

On November 5, 2012, Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God's Word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ. The focus this year is on the fruit of the Spirit. JOY.

For more information visit www.bwawd.org

2012 JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS

THE GREATEST WEEK IN HISTORY:
LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THE PASSION WEEK



Led by: Rob Futral, Pastor
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison, Miss.



3:00 a.m. - 10000

**Sponsored by: Sunday School Department, MS Baptist Convention Board,
Contact 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or 601-292-3291 to preregister.**



MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

October 29, 2012

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

FBC, Jackson

Christian Life Center Dining Room

Guest Speaker:

Janie Walters

"Blow A Bubble Not A Gasket!" is the topic for this year's conference. This is not only good advice, but also a delightful presentation by Janie. Stress is a major issue today, and Christians are not exempt! This is not just another stress management presentation. It is packed with practical ideas to start using today. Audiences will come away laughing, refreshed, and fully equipped to manage stress.

Preregistration is encouraged so we can be better prepared. Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for registration information. 1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or 601-292-3305. cwtaylor@mbcb.org

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2013

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church O=Office
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Thursday, January 24, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Area 2	Calvary BC, 501 W. Main St. Tupelo, 38804	Doug Spires	(C) 662-842-3338
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Area 3	FBC, 1760 Delaware Ave. McComb, 39648	Jane Wilkinson	(C) 601-654-2971
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Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	(O) 601-292-3272 (O) 1-800-748-1651
--------	--	-------------	--

Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC 4032 Poplar Springs Dr Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	(C) 601-485-5106
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Area 5	Carterville BC, 115 Carterville Rd. Petal, 39465	Kris Smith	(C) 601-584-9457
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Area 5	FBC, 502 Live Oak Ave. Pascagoula, 39567	Michaelle Harrison	(C) 228-762-2343
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Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th St. Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff	(H) 601-763-8731
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Friday, January 25, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Area 1	Longview Heights BC 4501 Goodman Rd. Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates	(C) 662-895-1900
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Saturday, January 26, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. - noon

Area 1	FBC, 450 Faith Dr. Grenada, 38901	Andy Cummings	(C) 662-226-3661
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Area 1	North Greenwood BC 615 Grand Blvd. Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Etheridge	(C) 662-453-2801
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ABIDE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTERS' RETREAT

Nov. 12-14, 2012

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Miss.

Student ministry is exhausting. It is easy to become exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually wiped out. The Mississippi Baptist Student Ministers' Retreat offers a time of spiritual nourishment, renewal, and the opportunity to sharpen our ministry skills.

Featured Speaker

Stuart Hall

Founder of Dash Student Leadership, Stuart Hall has fourteen-plus years of youth ministry experience. His unique blend of humor and powerful application make him one of America's best student communicators, with a heart to raise generations of youth that are spiritually influential on their culture.



Worship Leader

Bethany Barr Phillips

A native Mississippian, Bethany has been signing and writing since the age of 17. She travels the country at every opportunity to share the love and hope that are found in Jesus Christ alone.



Breakout Conference Speaker

Hal Shelby

Hal and his wife, Lisa, are the ministry directors of Refuge 461, a ministry to individuals, couples, and parents whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. As Mission Service Corps Missionaries with the North American Missions Board, they also are available to help churches to know how to respond redemptively.



NO COST

Registration required:

1-Register online at www.mbcb.org, look for the Student Ministers' Retreat link near the bottom of the home page.

2-Make reservations directly with Lake Tiak O'Khata if you are staying at the hotel. Lodging/Meal Package can be found under the same link as above.

*Information available for the economical bunkhouse option.

Retreat Schedule found under the same link on www.mbcb.org

Contact: Ken Hall, khall@mbcb.org, (800) 748-1651 ext.286, or
Rene' Edwards, redwards@mbcb.org, (800) 748-1651, ext. 283

Mother/Daughter Overnight at Garaywa

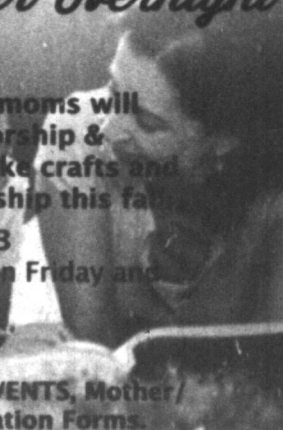
1st-6th grade girls and their moms will spend quiet time together, worship & praise, meet missionaries, make crafts and more! Join the fun and fellowship this fall.

October 5-6 & October 12-13

All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$50 per person

Visit www.garaywa.org under EVENTS, Mother/Daughter Overnight, for Registration Forms.



Pray this day for...

September 7 – September 20, 2012

"Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

-Matthew 9:38

Pray for: **Kevin* and Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **John and Sarah* Perkins**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through mission support, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael and Sarah* Prewitt**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **John* and Amy Purl**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, church and community outreach.

Pray for: **Tracy and Eugenia* Putnam**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Russia through theological training, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen* and Svetlana* Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from **Star Baptist Church, Star** traveling to the Ukraine for evangelism from Sept. 8-18

Pray for a team of two from **FBC, Kosciusko**, traveling to Haiti to minister through medical missions September 16 – 23.

Pray for: **Steven* and Nickolee* Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty* and Mary* Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Steven* and Ruth* Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through financial administration, church and home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Burton* and Margaret Schmitz**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Mike and Linda* Ray**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Ukraine through strategy coordination, church and home outreach evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



WorldCrafts is a ministry of WMU that provides artisans from all over the world an opportunity to provide food, clothing, housing, education, and medical care for their families. For more information on WorldCrafts or for help planning

your event, please contact: **Tammy Anderson** in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or tanderson@mbcb.org).

You can shop for WorldCraft items online at www.worldcrafts.org

MISS ALICIA MARTIN
11-4-94
Parents: Tom & Cynthia
Las Vegas

MR. CAMPBELL PUTNAM
11-5-98
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity Group

MR. JOHN THOMAS
11-7-02
Parents: J & C
Restricted

MISS MARISSA BLEDSOE
11-15-96
Parents: David & Laurie
South America

MR. DAVID D.
11-15-03
Parents: Dwayne & Melissa
Central & Eastern
Europe

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS
11-19-98
Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Eastern South America

MISS ABIGAIL JOHNSON
11-26-08
Parents: Lew & Brandi
NAME

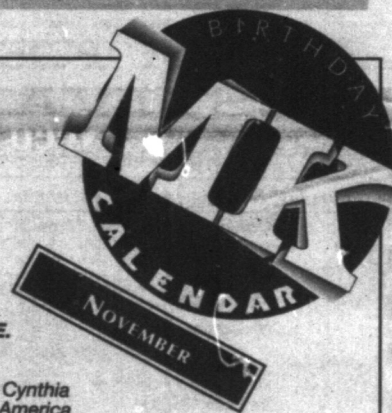
MR. JOSIAH PUTNAM
11-30-03
Parents: Tracy & Genie
European Affinity

Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



RA DAY 2012!!

IMB MISSIONARY — **ALVIN DOYLE**
FOOTBALL GAME, MUSIC
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON
OCTOBER 6

REGISTRATION: 10 A.M.
PROGRAM: 10:30 A.M.
GAME: 1:00 P.M.
COST: \$7
LUNCH: YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN,
OR PURCHASE ONE FOR \$6.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
DEANNA VAIL
601-292-3335
(800) 748-1651
EXT. 335



HOUSE TOPS

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SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Cullman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

MS POSITIONS

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIANOLA, MS, IS IN SEARCH OF A FULLTIME SENIOR PASTOR. Please send resumes to the church at P. O. Box 466, Indianola, Ms. 38751, Attn: Search Committee or by e-mail to williamsharp@bellsouth.net.

BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG, MS IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY. Send resume to: 7173 Highway 98 West, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at ScottCrawford01@msn.com

OUR PASTOR OF TWENTY-SIX YEARS, BRO. DALE EASLEY, HAS TAKEN RETIREMENT AFTER SUFFERING A STROKE. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VARDAMAN, OF VARDAMAN, MS, HAS FORMED A PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TAKING RESUMES FOR THIS POSITION. If you are interested, please call the church office (662)682-7458 or e-mail fbcv@tds.net.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

ZST TMAS XF ZST PJAU'S, MKU ZST

COPKTFZ ZSTATJC; ZST NJAPU, MKU

ZSTL ZSTL ZSMZ UNTPP ZSTATXK.

VFMPPH ZNTKZL-CJOA: JKT

Clue: Clue: S = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Eight: Twenty-nine

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Visit Historic Carrollton, Mississippi

October 5-7, 2012

For

Annual Pilgrimage & Pioneer Day

Homes, Churches & More

For more information about

the Pilgrimage or

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Call 662-237-6910 or E-mail: CarrolltonMsTours@gmail.com

visit WWW.VisitCarrolltonMs.com



Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

ISAAC

cont. from p. 1

"We start with water mitigation first, to see if there is rain or flood damage. At the same time, we develop a needs list and prioritize it for our outside that come in. We have in excess of fifty individuals in our church trained in disaster relief."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force's feeding unit number one, a fully self-contained 18-wheeler, set up in the church parking lot and prepared 1,800 meals for lunch on Aug. 31. They prepared another 500 meals for dinner.

The feeding unit from Briar Hill Church in Florence, staged at First Church, Pascagoula, fed an additional 900 dinnertime meals.

"One of the things our people valued so much after Katrina was the partnership ministry from other churches and other faith-based organizations," Stephens said. "That impacted the design of this building so that we can host teams and provide them a comfortable place for showers, sleeping, eating, and their strategy planning."

"We see ourselves as a launch place for teams who want to serve and minister. Our people have a strong appreciation for Southern Baptists and the Cooperative Program. We have what we have today in part because of the Cooperative Program and Margaret Lackey funds."

The Cooperative Program is the primary funding mechanism for Southern Baptist and Mississippi Baptist ministries, while the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering provides support for Mississippi Baptist-based ministries such as disaster relief.

"Very few families here today have not been touched by disaster relief ministries. There is a deep gratitude for the compassion shown. Our people have seen the hands and feet and eyes of Jesus through those who have come to help," Stephens said.

A perfect example of how volunteers are serving is seen in the story of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven. About a dozen members arrived at First Church, Long Beach, on Aug. 31. The group was led by Anita Bosley, a lay person in the church and wife of one of the church's ministers.

"Back in October of last year, our missions pastor and I sat down to talk," Bosley recounted. "After the Tuscaloosa tornadoes, our church found out that a community — Smithfield, AL — had sort of fallen through the cracks. Helping with that situation lit the fire for us. I'm a former paramedic, so it's always been on my heart to help with disaster relief."

"We decided with our missions pastor to get involved in this, and God has been opening doors right and left for us. Our missions pastor, Jim May, and our senior pastor, Rick Sayger, are both solidly



ISSAC RESPONSE — LaRue Stephens (left) pastor of First Church, Long Beach, and Anita Bosley, disaster relief coordinator at Colonial Hills Church in Southaven, pause in the parking lot of the Long Beach church to discuss next steps to be taken after Hurricane Isaac raked the Gulf Coast area on August 28. (Photo by Tony Martin)

behind the ministry.

"Jim May contacted Jim Didlake [director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force] and Don Gann [consultant in the Men's Ministry Department] and set up for them to come up during our church's missions week."

"They basically taught an introductory class on a Wednesday night and the next night we launched the church's disaster relief team, which we call the STAT team. The term, 'STAT,' obviously has disaster connotations, but it is derived from Esther 4:14, 'for such a time as this.' The verse basically says, if you don't rise up and go, somebody else will."

"Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief came and did a huge training for us one Saturday," Bosley continued. "Our people went through all different types of training. We've stayed in contact with the office. Then Don called and said, 'Isaac's coming. Can you be on standby?' I put half on standby for Friday and the other half on Sunday."

"We have about 42 credentialed members and about 70 total. We brought about 20 down through this rotation. We have 12 with us today. We are honored and privileged to be part of this. We're excited to be a part of this and to put to use the training we've received."

"Our church is very missions oriented, very service oriented. One of our mottos is 'insiders reaching out,' and we just want to reach everybody. This is one way we can do that."

"We have more work to do because we did a good job the first time," said Stephens, laughing. "We have friends bringing friends bringing friends to us."

some foods mentioned in the story. Your child could call or Skype his grandparents and tell the story to them. (Grandparents love this!) Make that story real for your child, and talk to him about how God protects, or provides, or leads, and about how the people in the story pray, or trust, or obey.

As an elementary student

By the time your child is reading at about a second- or third-grade level he should begin to read the Bible for himself. If he wants to try to read his Bible sooner than that, by all means, let him; be available to help, and be thankful. Help your child develop a reading plan, and encourage him in it. Talk about what he is reading. Help him with the hard words and thoughts. When your child is comfortable reading his Bible himself, challenge him to read it completely.

There are plans available that set out daily readings to complete the Bible in a year, or two years, or three years. Some of these plans progress through the Bible as it is printed, and some have a chrono-

logical approach. Your child could decide to read for a certain length of time each day. Share these options with your child and help him choose a plan that will work for him. You might both try following the same plan for a year.

Your child will value what you value when he is young. For that to stick as he grows up, he needs to see that your love for God's Word is real and that it helps you in your relationships and choices. Let him see how God's word guides you as you make decisions, receive comfort, and face challenges.

Show him that the Word can do the same for him.

Owens, a nurse, is in her 18th year of homeschooling and is the mother of four. Her husband is Wayne Owens, dean of the school of church and family ministries at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. This column first appeared at BiblicalWoman.org, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

REPORT

cont. from p. 1

Obama administration's advocacy in an important case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in January likely is one of the more criticized of the incidents of hostility documented in the survey. The administration contended there is no "ministerial exception" that safeguards the rights of churches to hire and remove leaders without government regulation. The high court unanimously disagreed, saying such government involvement would infringe on both the First Amendment's protection of religious free exercise and its ban on government establishment of religion.

The ruling came in *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*.

Another Obama administration policy cited in the report is its abortion-contraceptive mandate, which requires all health insurance plans to cover contraceptives — even ones that

can cause abortions — and has a religious exemption critics find woefully inadequate.

Among other instances of hostility cited in the report:

■ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at one point prohibited references to God in funerals at national cemeteries, a policy invalidated by a federal court.

■ A Texas city barred citizens at a public senior adult center from praying before meals, singing Christian songs, or listening to religious messages.

■ Public school officials in Texas banned students from bringing gifts for classmates that referred to Jesus or contained other religious messages, actions that elicited censure by federal courts.

■ A Texas city outlawed a Christian ministry to former prisoners from operating within its jurisdiction, an action rejected by the state's Supreme Court.

■ A federal appeals court ruled that prayers before local government meetings violate the establishment clause.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **North Calvary Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Sept. 9-12; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 6 p.m.; Mon. — Wed., noon with sandwich lunch and 7 p.m.; Jerry Bishop, speaker; Karen Cumberland, music; homecoming, Oct. 14; 11 a.m., followed by lunch; James Bryant, speaker; Karen Cumberland, music.

► **Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia:** Homecoming, Sept. 9; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Woody Rimes, speaker; Tim King, music.

► **Meadowview Church, Starkville:** Revival, Sept. 9-12, with Tim Mims and Marty Hurt; for more information, call (662) 323-2963.

► **New Prospect Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, Sept. 9; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; memorial service, 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Jonathan Sherwin, speaker; Buddy Reynaud, Kristi Sherwin, Donna Welch, and Willie Welch, music.

► **Holly Bluff Church, Holly Bluff:** Homecoming, Sept. 9, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner and afternoon singing; Brent Rutland, speaker.

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian:** Revival, Sept. 9-12; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mon. — Wed. 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker;

Harold Hollingsworth, music; Jim Rickles, pastor.

► **Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 9, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Wayne Hill, pastor.

► **Ridgecrest Church, Corinth:** 25th anniversary, Sept. 9; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Tommy Wilder, speaker; The Lovelace Family, music; Floyd Lamb, pastor.

► **Oak Grove Church, Yazoo County:** Revival, Sept. 9-12; Sun., 10 a.m.; Mon. — Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Hal Selby, speaker; 100th anniversary, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.; Thomas Peoples. All previous pastors contact current pastor Charlie Harris at (662) 755-8420.

► **Parkway Church, Pascagoula:** Homecoming, Sept. 9, 11:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and afternoon singing; Greg Foster, speaker.

► **Mt. Nelson Church, Philadelphia:** 170th anniversary, Sept. 9; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by a covered dish meal; Doug and Susan Powers, speakers; Tom McCurley, pastor.

► **College Hill Heights Church, Oxford:** 60th homecoming, Sept. 9; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Roger Stacy, speaker; The Fishers of Men and Jerry Franklin, music; Ronnie Dickinson, pastor.

OWEN

cont. from p. 2

discussion and learning.

At this point you may be thinking, "Read directly from the Bible to my pre-schooler? Really? How about a Bible story book instead?" That is a good question. Bible story books have their usefulness as a tool to help our child learn the stories. However, they are no substitute for the Scriptures. Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." You need to be reading God's own words to your child.

After you have read him a story from the Bible, repeat it with him to help him learn it. You might read it again, several times, throughout the day. You might let him act it out. Stuffed animals and some chairs pulled together make a great Noah's ark. A boat in a bathtub or a backyard wading pool can re-create the story of Jesus calming the sea.

You could draw a picture about the story. You could eat

Living in Holiness • 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The theme for this quarter's study is "Living Through Tough Times". The first key to living through tough times is living with hope, as we saw last week. The second key is "living in holiness" which is our topic for today. Holiness in the Bible is not meant to refer to a group of people who do strange things or to some select group of Christians. Holiness simply means being "godly". Peter reminds Christians of God's command to "be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16, NIV, Lev. 11:44-45).

In our focal passage Peter gives a number of New Testament commands that are steps on the path to holiness for every Christian.

1. LASSO YOUR MINDS

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled...As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do (1 Peter 1:13-15, NIV).

Holiness involves the mind. In order to win the battle with temptation and sin you must prepare your mind. The command to be self controlled implies that a Christian knows what sin is and has made a commitment in his heart and mind to avoid it. The command to live as obedient children reminds Christians that God is our Father,

He knows what is best for us, and He has a right to give us commands. The implication is that we should "willingly" obey God out of love and respect. Every Christian has known evil desires. Before salvation we were controlled by worldly, fleshly, ungodly desires. Now that we know Christ

we must resolve to put aside every desire that is contrary to the Father's will for us. Being holy for a Christian is like a child

wanting to be like his father or mother. A young girl will dress up in her mother's clothes, put on her shoes, and put her big purse over her shoulder playing "grown up". As Christians, we are called to "play grown up" too, but we are acting like God and it's not a game.

2. LIVE AS STRANGERS

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear (1 Peter 1:17, NIV).

Since God is our Father, the more like Him we become the less at home in the world we will be. The world does not know God and does not understand or accept his ways. The Bible says that Satan is "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4). All who are without Christ are under the system of the

world that is spiritually motivated by Satan. To be holy, a Christian must understand the fact that he is to be "in the

world but not of it" (John 17:14). Holiness means accepting our position as strangers in the world, but more, taking up Christ's mission to win the world that God loves to faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 3:16, Mat. 28:18). Each Christian will be judged based on how he lives out this life of holiness. Our salvation is secure in Christ, but sanctification involves discipline to shape us into the image of God. Our status in heaven will be determined by our holiness on earth.



Explore the Bible

with David B. Bishop

3. LOVE YOUR BRETHREN

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God...Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 1:22-2:3, NIV).

Love is possible because when we received Christ, God put His Holy Spirit within us. You have been born again... Christ creates a new spirit within saved people. This new spirit gives us the motivation and the ability to love others in a new way — to seek their salvation, their growth in Christ, and their well-being. This love is not natural, it is from God. The command to love requires 1) a true salvation experience, 2) repentance of all sinful attitudes and actions toward others, and 3) growing daily in relationship with God through His Word.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

High Expectations • Matthew 5:17-22, 27-28, 31-34a, 38-39, 43-44, 48

Jesus teaches the folks how to be governed by moral law, and strongly recommends righteousness as being a matter of the heart. It's not a list of rules to be framed and checked off occasionally. The scope of the whole being is to show that the law is spiritual. Fact check your beliefs about Jesus to assure they are Biblical and then seek to make application and move beyond superficiality.

Christ's teachings exactly agreed with the scriptures of the OT as He sets forth no thought of canceling those writings. Jesus had been impeccably obedient to the laws, honored parents, the sabbath, prayed, was generous and in V 18 declared the perpetuity of the Law. An example of Matthew Henry's was that if the vessel already had some water in it, Jesus did not come to pour it out, but to fill the vessel to the brim. He brought about improvements where not one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.

Christ adds nothing new but limits some of the abuses being allowed by the scribes and pharisees. Killing is forbidden, or even being an accessory thereto. God's laws serve as hedges of protection around us. The Jewish teachers clung to the letter of the law of prohibiting only the sinful act, and not the sinful thought. They never dug

down into the spiritual meaning but measured their righteousness with a cold adherence and pride in merely being in conformity. Even Paul at first misunderstood this commandment until through divine grace he was shown the difference. We are never to assume that these OT laws hold no significance for us in the 21st century.

Christ expanded the idea of the 6th commandment into whosoever is angry with his brother without cause is out of order. Anger is natural unless we become angry with no cause or just provocation (such as anger at the cries of a hungry infant), or to justify revenge. Cain killed his brother out of anger. We learn ways to make our self fit for communion with God by quickly correcting our errors of emotions out of control, harboring envy, malice, those things which disqualify us from coming to the table.

V 27 - Adultery and affirming the sanctity of marriage (v. 31-32) has huge implica-

tions for us in 2012 trying to counter attack the world's newest definition of marriage. Though we may disagree with God's rules, that doesn't prompt God to change them. They still are what they were then. God forever remains our standard and while we are walking in the light of Jesus Christ, those standards are reachable.

Jesus points the 7th commandment toward purity that refuses to lust. When man looks at a woman with a view to enticing her to lust,

his intent is toward adultery, and therefore he makes her an adulteress. The heart of the matter is lust and intent. Control of the eye is required or the alternative is sin. We have coverings for eyes to restrain the glances. The point is fundamental.

V 34 - Don't swear at all, not even lightly in common discourse. It is a sin without a cloak, without excuse. There is nothing by which we can swear.

Love your neighbor, those in your com-

munity, the sojourner, the resident alien, and hate your enemy? No, love for enemies means praying and loving them and it becomes mutually reinforcing. More love, more prayer, more prayer, more love. Was not Jesus praying for his tormentors while the spikes were being hammered into his body? (Father, forgive them...) Loving our enemies makes us like our Heavenly Father. Love them so that we may exceed those who are practicing common humanity by being good to only those who are good to us. Bless those who curse you and despitely use you. Christianity is always more than humanity.

V 48 Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. Can we? Some starting points: full commitment, uprightness, mature, righteous life style, Bible study, being blameless. Jesus is saying the true direction is toward all the perfection of God. "Be perfect therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect". Jesus is teaching his disciples to acknowledge spiritual bankruptcy and as they pursue the perfectness of the Father, to pray "forgive us our debts." Thank you, Lord, that your grace is measured to us all without distinction.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson



GOP

cont. from p. 1

which cannot be infringed," the platform states.

"We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children."

The platform takes specific stances on several policy matters

concerning abortion, including:

- opposing using government revenues to "promote or perform abortions."

- enacting civil and criminal penalties on healthcare providers who "fail to provide treatment and care to an infant who survives an abortion."

- banning sex-selective abortions.

"Numerous studies have shown that abortion endangers the health and wellbeing

of women, and we stand firmly against it," the platform states.

On the issue of gay marriage, the platform as it has every year since 2000 says marriage should be defined between one man and one woman. The platform also, as it first did in 2004, backs a federal marriage amendment.

"We reaffirm our support for a Constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman," it states. "We applaud the citizens

of the majority of States which have enshrined in their constitutions the traditional concept of marriage, and we support the campaigns underway in several other States to do so."

The GOP platform also goes into detail explaining why the party believes in the traditional definition of marriage.

"The institution of marriage is the foundation of civil society," the platform states. "Its success as an institution will determine

our success as a nation. It has been proven by both experience and endless social science studies that traditional marriage is best for children. Children raised in intact married families are more likely to attend college, are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, engage in crime, or get pregnant outside of marriage. The success of marriage directly impacts the economic well-being of individuals."

Just for the Record

(At right) Noah Bowlin, **POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH, MENDENHALL**, surrendered to the ministry Aug. 13. Shown are pastor Ted Bowlin and Bowlin, receiving a study Bible.



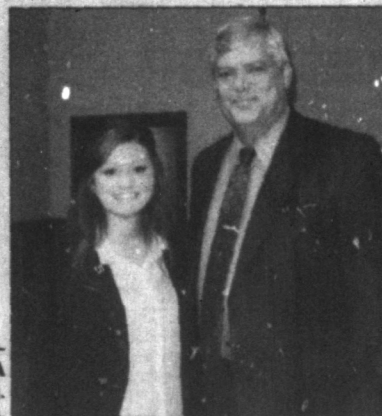
(At left) Youth from **SPRING HILL CHURCH, WATERFORD**, attended MBYM camp at Lake Lajoie. John Parker, pastor.

LUDLOW CHURCH, LUDLOW, ordained and installed new deacons Aug. 12. Shown are Michael Bradley, Jim McKinzie, Clyde Campbell, and pastor Gary Lawson.



(At right) Lanie King, the WMU sponsored summer missionary from **SYLVA RENA CHURCH, YALOBUSHA COUNTY**, shared her experiences with the church Aug. 26. Shown are King and pastor David Robinson.

(At left) **ROLLING HILLS CHURCH, CARRIERE**, ordained Barry Lee to the gospel ministry as pastor Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m. Shown are Bud Putman, Barbie Lee, Lee, and Carl Myers.



The ladies ministry, GAs, and leaders of **ROCKY CREEK CHURCH, GREENE ASSOCIATION**, made 100+ salvation dolls to send to children in Brazil. A mission team of 31 left Aug. 17 to deliver the dolls.

Vacation Bible School



PROVIDENCE CHURCH, GRENADA COUNTY: July 16-20; Mary Sue Frazier, director; Randle Ross, pastor.



MT. PISGAH CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY: shown is pilot and church member Bill Henderson landing his helicopter in the church parking lot; Lanny Haley, Sr., pastor.

IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE ON SEPTEMBER 14

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